

HOUSE RESOLUTION 347

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend BRIDGES for
meritorious service to the citizens of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this legislative body to recognize those
venerable organizations that exist to lift up communities and perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is BRIDGES, which unites and inspires diverse
young people to become confident, courageous leaders committed to community
transformation; and

WHEREAS, BRIDGES is rooted in the belief that young people can—and should—play
a vital role in making Memphis a better place to live, work, and play; through the Bridge Builders
program, begun in 1988, BRIDGES teaches young Memphians to appreciate diversity, lean into
courageous conversations, and build bridges across deep philosophical and physical divides;
and

WHEREAS, the relationships and day-to-day interactions of many Memphians are quite
segregated—whether by race, socioeconomic level, or other factors; each year, the Bridge
Builders program works to break down those barriers and unify the community, starting with the
youth; and

WHEREAS, through Connect, Collaborate, and Change, the three levels of the Bridge
Builders, youth in grades six through twelve learn to step outside their comfort zones and seek
out diverse perspectives while also honing other critical real-world skills such as communication,
problem solving, and decision making; and

WHEREAS, Bridge Builders challenges youth to apply the skills they learn during the
program to make meaningful and lasting impacts on schools, neighborhoods, and the city; and

WHEREAS, BRIDGES holds fast to the belief that young people aren't simply the leaders of tomorrow—they are powerful agents for positive change today; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this worthy organization be acknowledged and applauded; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize and commend the BRIDGES organization for its many decades of invaluable service to the Memphis community, extending our best wishes for much continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.